

PAKISTAN



**Pakistan is a country of 4 provinces:
Punjab, Sind, North West Frontier Province
(NWFP) and Balochistan, and Federally
Administered Tribal Area (FATA)**

**Situated in South Asia, bordering the
Arabian Sea in south, India in the east, Iran
and Afghanistan in the west and China in
the north-west to north east**

Pakistan's population is more than 170 M in 2008 with an annual growth rate of almost 2.4%.

Literacy rate is about 54% according to government estimates

Inflation rate is more than 25% in 2009: the cost of living is becoming out of control for majority of the people

Monthly minimum wage is Rs. 6,000 (US \$ 73) per month

Majority of the private companies violate minimum wage fixation

Poverty has significantly increased in the last decade, compared to 18% in 1988, currently than 50% of the population is living below poverty line

Sweeping and blanket liberalization, deregulation and privatization of the Pakistan economy is destroying local industries, creating unemployment and eliminating social services

LABOR SITUATION

The labor force is estimated around 46 million. Agriculture and its allied sector employs almost 48.4%, services 14.2%, trade 13.5% and manufacturing 11.6%

Unemployment rate in Pakistan is around 12%

Informal sector accounts a significant portion of employment. Outside the agriculture sector, 66% are in informal sector

Females constitute 15.6% of the labour force. Out of this, agriculture sector absorbs 73%, informal sector 18% and formal sector 9%

THE LABOUR MOVEMENT

- ➔ **The Pakistan labour movement is weak and very much divided.**
- **Only around 1 million workers (2.4% of the labour force) are organized in trade unions.**
 - **Today about 8,000 trade unions are registered in the public and private sectors.**
 - **Less than 1% of the labour force is covered in collective bargaining agreements.**
 - **There are about 15 functional trade union federations, 3 of them have nationwide representation.**
 - **Pakistan Workers Confederation (PWC) is the only active confederation at national level.**

Why is it weak?

- **according to Pakistan labour laws, only regular or permanent employees can join trade unions**
- **strong anti-union positions of employers and anti-union laws by governments**
- **weak organizational capacities of trade unions (research, fund raising, etc.)**
- **Due to massive privatization and downsizing in last 20 years more than 800,000 workers have lost their jobs**

Organizing Youth in Militarized Zone

Background:

- **US and Pakistan Afghan Policy of War**
- **Talibanization of the Swat Area**
- **Destruction of Schools, especially girls Schools**
- **Recruiting of suicide bombers from Madrassas**
- **Forceful recruiting of youth by Taliban**
- **No schooling and jobs for youth**
- **Women locked in houses**
- **Killing of social, political and trade union leaders in Swat by Taliban**

Organizing Youth in Militarized Zone

Launch of Military Operation

- **American forces already targeting Taliban by air strikes**
- **Military operation launched in hast in May 2009**
- **Civilians killed by Taliban and Military both**
- **More than 3.5 million IDPs as a result of Military Operation**
- **Women and children affected most: physically, Psychologically**
- **No backing of local people for military operation**

Organizing Youth in Militarized Zone

Relief operation launched

- Started organizing youth around issue of Peace
- Now more than 800 members of the Youth Peace Movement
- Organizing more youth in three districts of Malakand Division